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6 March 1986

Worldwide Report

NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT
AND
PROLIFERATION

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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6 March 1986

WORLDWIDE REPORT

NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT AND PROLIFERATION

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HONG KONG

ENVIRONMENTALISTS CONCERNED OVER DAYA BAY PROJECT

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 7 Jan 86 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

Not all doomsday forecasts about the nuclear industry, it would appear, are the products of inspired or malicious conjecture.

It will be recalled that 20 per cent of the core of the nuclear-powered electricity generating plant at Three Mile Island in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, melted down on March 28, 1979. That was just weeks after the release of a film called *China Syndrome*, featuring Jane Fonda as an investigative reporter in a mythical accident in a nuclear plant.

Just this past week, when environmentalists have been expressing concern over the impact of cost-cutting on the safety of equipment to be installed in the proposed Daya Bay nuclear plant in Shenzhen, we have read the news of an explosion at a nuclear fuel plant in Gore, Oklahoma, during the weekend. The result was one death and injuries to at least 100 people.

It is no; at all reassuring to be told that the Kerr-McGhee Company, which operated the Oklahoma plant, figured in a controversy in the 1970s.

At that time, Karen Silkwood, one of its employees, died in a mysterious car crash. Ms Silkwood, believed to be a victim of plutonium poisoning, had earlier been involved in a running trade union battle with her employers over safety standards at the plant.

The exact cause of Saturday's accident will not be known until after the investigation by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. However, the cloudburst of toxic, radioactive, hydrochloric acid gas on Saturday is attributed to a blast which ruptured a 14-ton manufacturing tank.

The cause of the explosion is what continues to be a mystery. Such sparse reports as have emanated from the accident site suggest that workers were using an untested process to expel gas from a tank. That, in

turn, ruptured the tank. This led to the release of corrosive, radioactive gas.

The acid, used commercially for etching glass and to clean metals, is believed to be so lethal that it can kill instantly on contact. Also, a leak of as little as 9.5 ounces is deemed dangerous at 200 feet.

Those being treated at hospital in Gore have complained of skin and eye irritation. Inhalation of the toxic fumes is also reported to cause irritation of the respiratory tract, besides vomiting and diarrhoea.

All this must weigh heavily on the minds of local environmentalists, headed by the Hongkong chapter of Friends of the Earth, as well as other concerned members of the community.

Criticising the wall of silence over the planning of the Daya Bay plant, particularly its safety standards in the event of an untoward accident, the spokesperson for the Friends of the Earth, Ms Linda Siddall, said: "We have absolutely no reason to welcome such a project."

On the subject of cost-cutting over the Daya Bay venture, Ms Siddall was equally emphatic. "Price and quality are always closely linked and we are very concerned... (and) the implication is terrifying."

Considering the Three Mile Island reactor reported a leak of radioactive material 13 days after it was restarted in October, one cannot accuse Friends of the Earth of overreaction, given the latest explosion in Oklahoma.

In fairness, the community here is entitled to a categorical and unqualified assurance that the amended terms agreed upon by China and Britain's GEC group and France's Framatome, for the purchase of equipment for Daya Bay, will in no way dilute safety standards at the plant.

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CSO: 5150/0068

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

PROGRESS TOWARD DAYA BAY NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT REPORTED

Memorandum Signed in Beijing

Hong Kong HONGKONG STANDARD in English 8 Jan 86 Supplement p 1

[Text]

Beijing (Jan 7) — Britain will lend China more than £200 million to import British generators for the Daya Bay nuclear plant near Hongkong, the English-language China Daily said yesterday.

The report said a memorandum of understanding was signed on Monday in Beijing by Bank of China president Wang Deyan and Christopher Benjamin, British Undersecretary of Trade.

A formal agreement is to be signed within the year, it added.

The low-interest bank loans will be paid back 15 years after the 1,800-megawatt plant goes into commercial operation in 1991, it said.

The money will be used to import conventional turbine generators from General Electric of Britain. The company announced last Thursday that China will pay £250 million for the equipment.

A memorandum of understanding was signed in Beijing on Dec 31, climaxing months of difficult negotiations.

China signed price accords on Dec 21 and 22 with the French companies Framatome and Electricite de France, for the pressurised water reactors and basic plant.

The Daya Bay plant, 70 kilometers east of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone in Guangdong Province, will be China's largest nuclear power station.

Seventy percent of its electricity will be sold to Hongkong and the rest to Guangdong Province.

The plant is being built by the Guangdong Nuclear Power Joint Venture Co, a partnership between the Chinese government and China Light and Power Co of Hongkong.

China's first nuclear plant, a 300-megawatt facility at Qinshan in Zhejiang Province, is due to start operating in 1989. —

British, French Contracts

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 9 Jan 86 p 11:

[Article by Albert Chan]

[Text]

British and French engineers hope to sign letters of intent for contracts on the Daya Bay nuclear plant in early March.

They will spend the next few weeks in Shenzhen working on details of the documents.

Meetings between the French nuclear reactor manufacturer, Framatome, and the Guangdong Nuclear Power Joint Venture Co began on Monday while engineers from the British GEC group, which will provide turbine generators to the plant, will start similar discussions with the Chinese shortly.

According to a senior Chinese official, recent amendments to the various contracts need checking.

Officials said it has been agreed that letters of intent should be issued to both the British and French companies no later than May 1.

It is expected that the three

Governments would need about six months to study and approve the contracts before actual signing could take place.

The current work on the letters of intent is expected to take a month, the official said.

Meanwhile, Bank of China and British bankers led by the Midland Bank have reached agreement on the loan arrangement for the purchase of £250 million (about HK\$2.78 billion) worth of equipment which GEC is going to provide for the project.

A memorandum of understanding was signed on Monday in Beijing by Bank of China president Mr Wang Deyan and Mr Christopher Benjamin, British Undersecretary of Trade.

The low-interest bank loans will be paid back 15 years after the 1,800-megawatt plant goes into commercial operation, scheduled for the third quarter of 1992.

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CS0: 5150/0067

CANADA

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER U.S. NUCLEAR WASTE SITES

Federal Study

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 17 Jan 86 p A20

[Article by Michael Tenszen]

[Text]

WINNIPEG

Manitoba will fight any attempts by Canada or the United States to put nuclear waste dumps at Lac du Bonnet, Man., or in northwestern Minnesota close to the province's border, Premier Howard Pawley said yesterday.

Mr. Pawley said he had a recent oral commitment from federal Energy Minister Pat Carney that Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. will be prohibited from locating an underground nuclear waste dump at the southern Manitoba site. He said the minister was asked to put that promise in writing but the wording in the subsequent Telex message was not strong enough and he has asked for another.

An Energy Department source said later yesterday that another message will be sent soon to Mr. Pawley giving him the Energy Minister's unequivocal assurance that no underground storage site will be allowed by the federal Government in Manitoba.

The AECL has a large station in the Pinawa-Lac du Bonnet area, about 80 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg near the Whitesell Provincial Park on the Ontario border. It is conducting extensive research there into storage of radioactive waste in the granite bedrock.

Anti-nuclear activists believe that, if the site proves suitable, AECL will open a large, commercial nuclear waste dump. They say a leak in such a dump would threaten ground water with radioactivity.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Energy said it is considering an

underground nuclear waste dump at one of four possible sites in northwestern Minnesota.

Mr. Pawley said yesterday that any of the sites, two of which are 10 and 26 kilometres from the Red River, would be unacceptable to Manitoba. The Red River flows from the United States through Winnipeg and on to Lake Winnipeg. Mr. Pawley said Manitobans do not want "huge quantities of radioactive materials" near their border, where substances could leak into the Red River and Rainy River systems.

Mr. Pawley released a copy of a letter he sent yesterday to federal Minister of External Affairs Joe Clark, urging him to "ensure that our concerns are made known to the U.S. Administration in the clearest possible way." Mr. Pawley tells Mr. Clark that the governor of Minnesota has also expressed strong concerns about the possible dump site in his state.

Manitoba Environment Minister Gerard Lecuyer said yesterday it will take AECL about 20 years to complete its research at Lac du Bonnet. He said AECL has assured him that no commercial nuclear dump site will be located there against the wishes of Manitobans.

Walter Robbins, spokesman for Concerned Citizens of Manitoba Inc., the main action group here opposing nuclear dump sites, said the extensive research that is being conducted at Lac du Bonnet will make the area a natural one for a large, profit-making dump to service the continent's huge buildups of nuclear waste.

Manitoba Officials

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 22 Jan 86 p A4

[Text]

WASHINGTON (CP) — Seven of a dozen sites announced Thursday as the most acceptable locations for a controversial U.S. nuclear waste dump are in northern border states, prompting the federal government to promise a study of potential danger to Canada.

The U.S. Energy Department is going to choose one of the 12 sites in 1998 to build a giant permanent underground dump to hold radioactive nuclear waste and spent fuel that now is accumulated in temporary storage pools around the country.

Six of the sites are in states along the Canadian border Minnesota, Maine and New Hampshire. One is in Wisconsin, bordering the Great Lakes. The others are in states farther south — Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia.

External Affairs Minister Joe Clark said in a statement released here that he is pleased the U.S. government honored Canada's request to exclude any sites within 40 kilometres of the Canadian border. But he noted one site in Maine is just outside that limit.

And Canada is concerned that some of the border state sites among the 12, or in a list of eight backup sites, are in or near water basins that drain into Canada, a factor that will now be studied. Clark said the government op-

poses any development that could pose a threat to Canadians.

While Clark didn't mention it, Canadian officials said they were pleased the list of near-final candidate areas excludes sites in northern Vermont along the Quebec border where Canadians and Americans have been protesting the prospect of a nuclear dump in their backyard.

Canada's concerns centre on the potential impact of a site in Maine on the St. Croix watershed of New Brunswick, two sites in Wisconsin because of drainage into the Great Lakes, and four sites in Minnesota in the Red River basin of Manitoba.

The U.S. Energy Department announced a list of 20 so-called candidate areas with the 12 sites ranked as the most acceptable. They were chosen from a list of 235 locations.

After more study of the rock formations at each site, the list will be shortened to three in 1991. The dump would be like a large underground mine, surrounded by buildings on a 160-hectare site. It would be one of two dumps to hold radioactive waste from nuclear plants and weapons production facilities. The other dump, to be in Nevada, Texas or Washington State, is to be chosen in 1994.

/9274

CSO: 5120/29

CANADA

RADIOACTIVE WATER LEAKS REPORTED AT TWO SITES

Douglas Point Station

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 24 Jan 86 p A8

[Article by Thomas Claridge]

[Text]

Crews preparing Ontario Hydro's Douglas Point Generating Station for abandonment have found that a large pool filled with radioactive fuel bundles is leaking.

Station manager Allan Holt said yesterday that calculations made since the discovery early this month indicate that about 60 litres an hour is flowing into a sump system designed to collect ground water.

Mr. Holt said that since the discovery, the discharge water has been sampled daily to ensure that it stays within a Hydro target for radioactive emissions to the lake.

"The leak presents no hazard to employees or the public," he said, adding that the principal contaminant, cesium, is at a concentration below 1 per cent of the limit set by the Atomic Energy Control Board.

Mr. Holt said the mildly radioactive pool water was mixing with at least 20 times as much ground wa-

ter routinely reaching the sump.

"We pump out between 7,000 and 8,000 gallons a day, and up to 30,000 gallons if it rains," he said. The current leakage rate from the pool is about 6 per cent of an average day's total collection in the sump.

Hydro crews were closing a water-treatment plant when they noticed that water in the pool was disappearing at a rate too high to be explained by evaporation.

Asked how long the leak could have been undetected, Mr. Holt said it "could have been there for quite a while."

The Douglas Point station near Kincardine, the first commercial-size Candu power plant, is owned by Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. Hydro managed the station and purchased the power it produced between 1967 and 1984.

It was closed on May 5, 1984, after AECL decided the plant was uneco-

nomical to run and Hydro concluded it was not worth purchasing for a token \$1. Since then, AECL-supervised Hydro crews have removed the fuel from the reactor and drained all piping systems.

"We're draining all hazards in the station so it can sit quietly for 10 years," Mr. Holt said. Once radioactivity in the building has reached acceptably low levels, the station will be demolished.

The pool, which Mr. Holt described as 18 metres long, 7.5 metres wide and 7.5 metres deep, contains about 22,000 fuel bundles and about 1.6 million litres of ordinary water.

Although the immediate objective of Hydro and AECL is to locate and plug the leak, possibly with ultrasonic devices, Mr. Holt said AECL is also looking into the possibility of removing the fuel, storing it elsewhere and draining the pool.

New Brunswick Power Plant

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 25 Jan 86 p A4

[Text]

The nuclear power plant in this community near Saint John, N.B., has lost almost 3,000 kilograms of heavy water since it sprang a leak exactly a month ago. But Roland Krause, spokesman for the New Brunswick Power Commission, said yesterday that the leak is manageable and will not be fixed until a scheduled maintenance shutdown on April 25. The heavy water is 10,

000 times less radioactive than the level considered safe by the Atomic Energy Control Board, and is diluted with salt water before being flushed into the Bay of Fundy, Mr. Krause said. The pinhead-sized leak is somewhere in one of the 3,500 steel tubes running through the reactor cooling system and would be virtually impossible to detect without shutting the reactor down, he said.

CANADA

AECL SUGGESTS SMALL REACTORS FOR NORTH, SETS SALES TARGETS

Small Reactors for North

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 16 Jan 86 p B24

[Text]

SASKATOON (CP) — Small nuclear reactors may be the key to providing heat and electricity to Northern Canada, say officials of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.

"There are a number of places in the North that could use them that aren't connected to an electrical grid and don't want to haul in fuel at a big expense," said Dave Brown, an Atomic Energy spokesman at Whiteshell, Man.

A two-megawatt demonstration reactor — one-fifth the size of the small commercial units planned by Atomic Energy — is under construction at the nuclear research facility at Whiteshell and is expected to be operating by September.

Metro Dimitriw, who's responsible for marketing, said Atomic Energy will be prepared to make a commitment to sell one of the small Slowpoke reactors to a community within the following year.

Slowpoke stands for Safe Low Power Critical Experiment.

Dimitriw said Atomic Energy sees several dozen centres as potential customers. Most are in the Northwest Territories, but some places like Fond-du-Lac, Uranium City and Wollaston Lake in northern Saskatchewan might also be candidates.

A 10-megawatt reactor could serve a community of 800 to 2,000 people.

Dimitriw said nuclear-generated heat can compete with any

source except natural gas anywhere in Canada.

Electricity generated by the Slowpoke, on the other hand, costs about 25 to 35 cents a kilowatt-hour compared with three to six cents charged to residents in major cities.

"So, in southern communities, it's out of the question."

In remote northern communities, Dimitriw said, people pay far more than 25 cents a kilowatt-hour for electricity generated using diesel fuel.

"The only way we will know it is economical will be to look at individual communities."

Safety, he said, is a major selling point.

"The Slowpoke can operate unattended for days, weeks or months at a time."

Like the reactors used at several Canadian universities, it uses ordinary water as a moderator for the nuclear reaction. That's considered safe because if something goes wrong and "you don't have water, you don't have a reaction."

Brown said the amount of nuclear material required to fuel the reactors has less radioactivity than the cobalt therapy unit at Saskatoon's University Hospital.

"The whole core is not quite as big as a wastepaper basket and smaller than a five-gallon can."

Dimitriw said the Slowpoke concept is "unique in the world" and is attracting a lot of interest.

Research Division Sales Targets

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 24 Jan 86 p B13

[Article by Ritchie Gage]

[Text]

The Mulroney Government's emphasis on a commercial orientation for Crown companies has prompted some ambitious plans for the 40-year-old research division of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.

The elite R & D operation gets up to \$200-million annually from Ottawa; in five years that will be cut by 50 per cent. In its new three-year business plan, management of the research company has set sales targets for technological services at triple the current \$30-million annually, to offset this reduction.

Other AECL divisions already pay their own way. Medical and food sterilization technology and diagnostic products are produced at an operation in Kanata, Ont. The Candu reactor division, based in Toronto, has made 14 domestic sales. Foreign buyers include Argentina, Romania and Korea; negotiations are under way with Turkey for a sale of the \$1-billion system.

It came as no surprise to the PhD-rich research operation to see Ottawa bring out the scissors. For the past six months, the division — the original AECL company — has undergone widespread restructuring that included creation of the position of president. Two multi-million-dollar nuclear reactors have been mothballed. Management ranks have been thinned and 190 jobs eliminated through retirement incentives.

The new president is 53-year-old Stan Hatcher of Toronto, who takes over officially on Feb. 1. He was instrumental in the division's reorganization.

Mr. Hatcher, former marketing director for Candu sales, has a doctorate in chemical engineering. He has been with AECL for 28 years, part of that time spent at the Whiteshell reactor at Pinawa, Man. He said marketing experience gained during the past five years was a factor in his being chosen.

"We're taking on a much stronger commercial and customer orientation than we ever had before," he said. His slogan for AECL's new push into the market is "excellence,

relevance and value." Research must meet the needs of government and the market place.

"We're encouraging our staff to come forward with ideas on products and services as well as the general running of the company," he said. Bidding on contracts for water analysis, nuclear safety training and solvent extraction research have all been prompted by staff suggestions.

A major commercial venture is developing the Slowpoke reactor design for use in space heating. Construction of a system is under way at Pinawa and it is scheduled to be operating by September. Mr. Hatcher said China has shown interest in Slowpoke because it can provide heat and electricity for remote communities of up to 2,000 people more cheaply than diesel generators.

In May, without fanfare, the two nuclear power reactor programs came to an end — one at Whiteshell, the other at Chalk River, Ont.

The showcase Pinawa reactor was mothballed to save operating costs of \$9-million a year. Since 1965 it had been testing uranium fuels, using oil as an experimental cooling fluid.

It wasn't a commercial success — no system was ever sold. However, AECL still contends it's a viable system for the petroleum industry because it produces extremely high temperature steam that can be used for extraction in tar sands. (Mr. Hatcher said it wasn't known when the oil-cooled test reactor was built that heavy water reactors work as well as they do.)

A conventional water-cooled reactor at Chalk River was also shut down. It had been operating since 1947.

As far as its new sales effort is concerned, Mr. Hatcher emphasized, AECL is in the power utility, not the consumer products, business. "We've a number of people travelling the world meeting with potential customers promoting our expertise.

"Personal contact is our major sales route."

CANADA (

COMPLETION OF PICKERING NUCLEAR STATION ANNOUNCED

Toronto THE TORONTO STAR in English 24 Jan 86 p A16

[Article by Bill Walker]

[Text]

The Beatles' *Ticket To Ride* was Number 1 on the charts, Lester B. Pearson was prime minister and — yes it's true — the Toronto Maple Leafs had just won a Stanley Cup.

The year was 1965 and, on a huge clump of land along Lake Ontario west of Toronto, some construction workers began to build Ontario's first nuclear power station at Pickering.

This week, they finished. Two years behind schedule.

Hydro spokesman Michele McMaster said this week the eighth and final reactor at the Pickering Nuclear Station has begun churning out its first burst of electricity, about 17 per cent of its potential capacity.

The final reactor will be slowly brought to full capacity in the next 10 days and, when it is declared "in service," construction at Pickering will have been completed 21 years after it began.

The first large-scale nuclear power station ever built in Canada has been a controversial political issue ever since.

'Learned a lot'

The first four reactors built at Pickering (called the A station) cost Hydro \$750 million in actual dollars adjusted for inflation. The cost of the second four (the B station) escalated to \$3 billion.

"We've learned a lot over the

years but one thing it's continued to tell us is that the Candu (reactor) design is a good design for a reactor to be used for commercial operation," Hydro executive vice-president Pat Campbell said.

"We've also learned that it's a good design to be able to run at a high capacity factor," he said, referring to the reactors' average performance at 90 per cent of capacity.

Hydro's safety statistics are world-class and Campbell said he feels public opinion is turning in favor of Hydro's nuclear operations after years of persistent criticism.

"People have become more comfortable with what we're doing based on our safety records and the fact that they know our staff is well-trained and that we tell them everything that's going on inside that plant," Campbell said.

Kate Sutherland of Energy Probe, an anti-nuclear lobby group, points to polls that show people are still skeptical about the attractiveness of the nuclear power option and are concerned about costs and long-term problems with storage of nuclear waste.

Tubes ruptured

There have been heartaches for Canada's nuclear pioneers.

The first two Pickering reactors were fitted with pressure

tubes (containing nuclear fuel) constructed of Zircalloy-2, a metal that proved to be substandard. Later reactors were made with tougher zirconium niobium tubing.

Two years ago, one of the old-style pressure tubes ruptured in the second reactor at Pickering, causing the most serious malfunction Hydro has faced.

Radiation was contained and there was no public danger in the accident but, as a safety precaution, Hydro shut down the two oldest reactors for three years to perform a massive overhaul and replace all 360 tubes in each with the stronger metal.

"We're pretty darn confident that it (zirconium niobium) is the right metal to have in those pressure tubes," Cammell said. "The other tubes were just not as effective. They couldn't withstand the constant pressure and radiation."

Having the two reactors shut down costs Hydro up to \$500,000 each day in replacement power costs, either through coal-fired power or imported power.

The first reactor is scheduled to restart in November of this year and the second in February, 1987, McMaster said.

In the meantime, Hydro faces perhaps its toughest political challenge — the \$11 billion Darlington nuclear station outside Oshawa scheduled for completion in the mid-1990s.

Two in question

A legislative committee at Queen's Park is studying whether power from Darlington will be needed in the face of slumping demand. It appears two of Darlington's four reactors will be completed, but the other two are in question.

(Hydro also operates the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station near Kincardine, which is close to completion.)

CANADA

'PEOPLE'S INQUIRY' HELD ON NANOOSE BAY TEST RANGE

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 20 Jan 86 p C16

[Text]

NANAIMO, B.C. (CP) — Concerned citizens discussed potential nuclear accidents and Canadian sovereignty at a weekend conference but are frustrated over lack of information on a nearby weapons testing range used by the United States Navy.

The 500 participants at a "people's inquiry" on the Canadian Forces Maritime Experimental Testing Range off Nanoose Bay, 20 kilometres north of this Vancouver Island city, heard experts talk about the risk of radiation from the visits of nuclear-powered U.S. submarines and warships.

They heard peace activists urge that a Canadian-U.S. agreement that allows the visits of such vessels, which could be carrying nuclear weapons, not be renewed when it expires April 14. Some argued it amounts to an infringement of Canadian sovereignty.

Dr. Dorothy Goresky, national president of Physicians for Social Responsibility, told the conference in vivid detail the catastrophic effects a nuclear blast would have on people.

"There is no possible medical response to a nuclear war," she said.

And former military personnel and weapons researchers spoke about the range of anti-submarine weapons currently available, the ones that might be tested at Nanoose and their significance in the global arms race.

Little specific information, however, is available about the Nanoose range itself.

The Department of National Defence, the Conservative and Liberal parties and the local chamber of com-

merce declined to attend the meeting.

The department did send a background paper which provided a history and general description of the base but did not elaborate on such matters as radiation levels and safety monitoring, the health risks posed to residents and the environment and the potential for accidents involving nuclear reactors or weapons.

"One of the issues that has come out very clearly is that we don't know a lot of things that we as citizens should know," said Terry Padgham, one of the panelists invited by the organizer, Gabriola Island Peace Association.

Dr. Robert Woollard, a University of British Columbia assistant professor specializing in the hazards of low-level radiation, said the government's refusal to attend indicates it thinks public assessment is irrelevant.

He said there is no significant health hazard from exposure to low level radiation in the periodic visits to Nanoose Bay by nuclear-powered submarines as long as the military has been totally accurate in its description of such visits. But, he said, there is no civilian access to all the data.

"Considering the military, economic and political stakes involved, it would be an act of extreme naivety to believe that data confirming a significant health hazard of low level radiation would be released to the public," Woollard said.

Retired Lt. Col. Woody Coward, representing Veterans for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament, said the "information vacuum" about what goes

on at the Nanoose range is creating "all kinds of suppositions" which undermine confidence in the government.

Military policy is neither to confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons on visiting American vessels.

Under the current 10-year agreement, Canada and the United States have equal share of testing time on the range but the Americans buy time unused by Canada.

Weapons tested are mainly torpedoes and other anti-submarine devices. Military spokesmen have previously denied that the guidance system for the Tomahawk sea-launched cruise missile was tested as well.

Different groups at the meeting were divided on how far disarmament should go.

Coward's group and the B.C. Federation of Labor call for nuclear disarmament by all sides but argue that the Nanoose range should be retained by the Canadian armed forces for conventional weapons testing. Other groups want the range converted for peaceful activities like oyster and fish farming.

Coward said the agreement should be renewed only if the United States agrees to allow verification that its ships entering Nanoose carry no nuclear arms. He said his group is realistic in believing that Utopia cannot be achieved right away.

There was sharp disagreement from panelist Rosalie Bertell, a bio-statistician and a nun. "It is this kind of false realism that has got us into this problem," she said.

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CSO: 5120/30

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BERLIN CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR EXPORTS ENDS

LD132230 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1748 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] Berlin, 13 Feb (ADN) -- A 2-day session of socialist countries that are exporters of nuclear materials, nuclear equipment, and technologies ended in Berlin on Thursday [13 February].

The participants in the session stressed that the implementation of the comprehensive program contained in the 15 January 1986 statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in the event of a simultaneous ban on offensive space weapons would result in a fundamental improvement of the international situation by eliminating the danger of nuclear war and strengthening peace on earth.

The conference discussed a broad range of problems connected with the further strengthening of the international system for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Praising the positive results of the third review conference on the application of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty the participants at the session supported the speediest possible realization of the decisions and recommendations of that conference which are aimed at banning nuclear weapons tests and consolidating the international system for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

On this matter, special attention was devoted to discussing measures to strengthen controls on nuclear exports. The participants spoke in favour of a comprehensive development of international cooperation in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and stressed the great importance of strict adherence by all parties to the obligations derived from the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and other international agreements.

The participants at the session also expressed support for the activity of the International Atomic Energy Agency to safeguard the system of nuclear nonproliferation and supported a further increase in that organization's role in safeguarding controls, especially in the states not in possession of nuclear weapons.

The delegation leaders were received by Mr Herbert Frolkowski, secretary of state and first deputy minister of foreign affairs.

/8309

CSO: 5100/3020

6 March 1986

BULGARIA

POWER ENGINEERING MINISTER DISCUSSES POWER SUPPLY

AU101357 Sofia BTA in English 1048 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] Sofia, February 10 (BTA)--In a number of indices in the field of power engineering Bulgaria ranks among the most advanced industrial countries in the world, Mr Nikola Todoriev, minister of power engineering said. In an article published today in RABOTNICHESKO DELO he notes that the consumption of electric power per capita of the population is more than 2.5 times higher than the world's average. The minister stressed the following fact: The structure of power generation contains the characteristic features of the most progressive tendencies in this field which find expression in the great relative share of the nuclear capacities in power generation and in the great amount of electricity generated from low calory fuel.

Mr Nikola Todoriev pointed out that today the nuclear capacities generate about one-third of the electric power in Bulgaria. There are four 440 megawatt reactors at the Kozloduy nuclear power station. Yet another two reactors, 1,000 megawatts each, are now under construction at accelerated rates at the same power station. The construction of a second nuclear-power station has started near the town of Belene (on the Danube). The minister of power engineering stressed that Bulgaria is the second country in the socialist community after the Soviet Union in which 1,000 megawatt nuclear reactors are under construction. Bulgaria's experience as regards the terms of the setting on stream of the nuclear capacities and as regards the terms of their mastering places her among the most advanced countries in the world. The minister cites an interesting fact: If the average coefficient of the utilization of the nuclear reactors in the world is 62 at the Kozloduy nuclear power station it is 80 percent.

Mr Nikola Todoriev writes that it has been provided for the development of a new trend in nuclear power generation-central heating on the basis of nuclear sources.

The minister said that 30 years ago the most powerful energy blocks were 25 megawatts. Now the power engineering system in this country includes six energy blocks, 150 megawatts each and 15 energy blocks, 210 megawatts each. The "Varna" thermo-electric power station has a capacity of 1,260

megawatts and the "Maritsa-Izstok" complex generates 20 percent of the electric power in Bulgaria. At "Maritsa-Izstok" there have been introduced efficient technologies for the direct burning of low-caloric coal in thermo-electric power stations.

Bulgaria's minister of power engineering dwells on the mining of coal in this country. Eighty percent of the coal in this country is mined in open cast mines. In the following few years 87 percent of the coal will be mined according to this method. At the same time the necessary attention is being paid to the mining of brown and other types of coal. These types of coal are mined underground.

Mr Nikola Todoriev also dwelled on some unresolved problems in the field of power engineering. Bulgaria is still lagging behind in a trend as important as the rational use of fuels and energy and the raising of the energy efficiency of the economy. The consumption of fuels and energy per unit of production in this country is still high.

By way of conclusion the Bulgarian minister of power engineering comments on last year's difficulties in power supply. He stressed that the state is providing the necessary resources with which to compensate the lack of water resources for achieving the energy balance and that the disturbances will be gradually overcome.

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CSO: 5100/3019

BULGARIA

INNOVATIONS AT KOZLODUY NUCLEAR POWER STATION

AU061251 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 5 Feb 85 p 1, 3

[Undated RABOTNICHESKO DELO Nevena Markova report from Kozloduy, in the framework of the national competition "Research--Application in Practice--World Level," entitled: "The 'Nuclear Megawatts' of Innovation"]

[Text] A program collective from the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Combine has developed and applied a new method for reloading the "VVER-440" reactors. The collective consists of the physicist Rangel Simov; Kalia Milanova, candidate of technical sciences and senior scientific worker grade 1; and the physicists Nikola Alekov and Tsveta Kharalampieva, under the leadership of Eng. Georgi Dichev, here of Socialist Labor and chief director of the combine. Practice has confirmed the effect of prolonging the duration of the reactors' operating cycles and of reducing the radiation loading of their housings.

Now that the idea has been implemented, its inventors are eager to discover new reserve in the nuclear production of electric power and to seek new ways and means of achieving higher efficiency.

"Following the successful introduction of our development, we extended the period of operation of the reactor and achieved more complete combustion of the nuclear fuel. We applied the new method for the first time in 1984, during the overhaul and reloading with fresh fuel of units 2 and 3 of the nuclear plant. The economic effect achieved amounted to 70,450,000 leva," noted Engineer Dichev, the leader of the program collective.

The idea of applying a new method for recharging with nuclear fuel, protected by Authorship Certificate No 36,659, came during the second recharging of Unit 2. After nights of hard work in the computer center, the forecast results were confirmed. In 1981 a model version of the fuel cycle for charging and recharging "VVER-440" reactors was successfully worked out. The program collective successfully applied the developed location of the nuclear fuel in the reactors' active zones. In 1984 Units 2 and 3 were loaded by this method, and in 1984 Unit 4 was so loaded. Before the end of the year, the method will also be applied to Unit 1.

When the development is applied to all reactors, the economic effect will amount to more than 40 million leva.

A task for tomorrow is the commissioning of a fifth power unit at the Kozloduy nuclear power station, with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts. Still to be mastered is a complex of programs for analyzing the complex processes taking place in the active zone of the 1,000 megawatt reactor and for opening up the reserves for efficient utilization of the nuclear fuel.

The members of the program collective well realize that what they have achieved is not the limit of the technical possibilities, and that the intelligence, labor, talent, and daring they have invested will continue to be applied at a high level in the future.

/12858
CSO: 5100/3019

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

LITHIUM CARBONATE MINING INSTALLATION--(DYN)--Salta--The construction of the first lithium carbonate mining installation will begin here on February 14 according to official sources yesterday. Lithium carbonate can be used in nuclear reactors and eight million dollars will be invested in the construction. The investors will benefit from the provincial mining law which allows special concessions for investment capital. According to the owners of the new company production will begin in 1987 and alloys of aluminium, enamel, magnesium, potassium, sodium sulfate, sodium chloride, boric acid and lubricants will also be produced. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Jan 86 p 3 PY] /0091

CSO: 5100/2043

INDIA

COMMENTARY ON NONALIGNED VIEW OF NUCLEAR TESTING

BK201423 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 20 Jan 86

[Commentary by political commentator Desu Krishnamurti entitled "NAM [Non-aligned Movement] Proposals on Nuclear Test"]

[Text] The latest Soviet gesture in accepting a nonaligned proposal to ban nuclear weapons tests not only in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater but also underground, may not sound very significant in the wleter of proposals and counterproposals flying between Moscow and Washington in the interest of peace and disarmament. The Soviet Union has also extended its unilaterally test freeze by another 3 months. But neither India nor the Nonaligned Movement, of which it is still the chairman, is likely to underestimate the value of such an acceptance by Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. The nonaligned states are unanimous in the view that each step taken toward disarmament could provide new funds to increase the quality of living in the developing world.

The history of nonaligned initiatives in regard to disarmament apart, one of the very first things that Mr Rajiv Gandhi did as India's young prime minister, was to give a new thrust to the Nonaligned Movement as the biggest peace movement in the world. The latest 3 months saw stepped up campaigns by Mr Gandhi in the cause of disarmament. Those efforts were in the context of the declaration of the nonaligned foreign ministers at Luanda in September on the urgent need for moratorium on nuclear tests. On his return trip from Nassau summit, Mr Rajiv Gandhi visited the Hague on the eve of the installation of cruise missiles in the Netherlands and later made an unscheduled halt at Moscow to hold wide ranging talks with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev on global issues, particularly disarmament.

With the Geneva summit only a few weeks away then, it was widely believed at that time that consultations between the Soviet and Indian leaders would be very useful because Mr Rajiv Gandhi had met Mr Ronald Reagan just a couple of days before and had acquired an insight into the U.S. President's thinking on the issues that would figure at Geneva. Three weeks after this meeting with Mr Gorbachev came the major six-nation nonaligned initiative on nuclear tests. They proposed a 12-month moratorium, offering to monitor all underground tests by installing sensitive devices on test sites of the superpowers to insure its strict observance.

Previous proposal for a nuclear weapon test freeze fell through because of an effective and mutually acceptable way of verifying of such a freeze could not be found by the superpowers. This initiative was a followup of the summit meeting of the six nations held in New Delhi around this time last year. While the Soviet Union has already announced a unilateral test freeze til January 86, the Americans maintained that such a moratorium was not possible because it could not be monitored.

The six-nation Delhi declaration had said, and I quote: "The problems of verifying the suspension we propose are difficult but not insurmountable. Third party verifications could provide a high degree of certainty that testing programs have ceased. We propose to establish verification mechanisms on our territories to achieve this objective." When the move was first made in May 1984, it generated a lot of enthusiasm and was blessed by the pope. Nearly 150 congressmen and senators met President Reagan in support of it. The impact of the six-nation Delhi declaration in January last was even greater.

But the latest nonaligned initiative coming soon after Nassau and just before Geneva was no surprise. Moscow has already formally committed itself to stop all tests unilaterally for almost 5 months ending 1 January 1986 and for as long thereafter as the United States refrain from testing. Predictably, Mr Gorbachev's latest offer is only a reaffirmation of Moscow's earlier pledge. It now extends this test moratorium by another 3 months.

The new and serious overtures from Moscow about halting, which are exactly reversing the arms race, must evoke a matching response from Washington. A test ban treaty is long overdue and would be a historic step forward to brighten the prospects of nuclear disarmament. The conclusion of a comprehensive treaty could add to the pressure on France and China who have carried atmospheric tests ahead.

More recently, Moscow reiterated Gorbachev's commitment to no testings of nuclear weapons and his willingness to carry out mutual reductions up to 50 percent in the superpower arsenals. Washington still adheres to its no testings doctrine. Just now the Kremlin offer is conditional. It is close to a permanent commitment because it is continually being extended. President Reagan will do well to make a beginning by accepting the Soviet offer, and if he so desires, put to test the substance of Soviet offers.

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CSO: 5150/0062

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT DELHI MEETING OF PALME COMMISSION

Appeal From FRG Member

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Jan 86 p 14

[Text] New Delhi, January 17: Mr. Egon Bahr, West German M.P. and disarmament expert, yesterday expressed his scepticism about nuclear powers going as far as to rid the world of all nuclear weapons. However, if further deployment and development of nuclear weapons was stopped, it would be a major step for all mankind, he said.

Mr. Bahr, who is a member of the Palme commission, was asked to comment on the latest Gorbachov proposals in which he outlined a step-by-step programme to rid the earth of all nuclear weapons before the end of the century.

Mr. Bahr and Mr. K. Subrahmanyam, director of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, addressed a joint press conference before Mr. Bahr delivered a lecture on "Strategic defence initiative and perspectives for arms control: European and German viewpoints."

Mr. Bahr, who is carrying a message for the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, from Mr. Willy Brandt, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, met the vice-president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, today. He also had talks with the industry minister, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, the minister of state for defence research and development, Mr. Arun Singh, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. K. R. Narayanan.

On the Gorbachov proposals, Mr. Bahr said he would like to have details and the reaction of the other nuclear super powers. A fact remained that the world had experienced technical development much faster than the capacity of politics to govern it, he said.

PTI adds: The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. K. R. Narayanan, said on Friday that India considered nuclear disarmament central to the issue of international peace and security and called for mobilising world public opinion against nuclear weapons.

Statement Presented

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Jan 86 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 19. The Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues, better known as the Palme Commission, has appealed to the superpowers "not to miss the unique opportunity" created by the "far-reaching and constructive" proposals put forward by the Soviet leader Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev and take "concrete measures to halt the arms race."

The Commission ended its three-day deliberations here today.

Presenting the ICDSI's Delhi statement and later addressing a press conference here today, the Swedish Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Olof Palme said the proposals came very close to the U.S. "zero-option proposal" on dismantling intermediate range missiles in Europe.

"Therefore, what had been uppermost in our minds in this conference was that the resumed dialogue between the Soviet Union and the U.S. must come to an early concrete agreement," he said.

First step: Mr. Palme pointed out that on behalf of the six nations which were signatories to the Delhi declaration, the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, had in October last offered to help the major powers in establishing verification procedures. The Gorbachev proposals had now opened up the possibility for this. A mutually verifiable and comprehensive test ban agreement could be the first "confidence-building" step in the new round of disarmament talks, Mr. Palme said.

On strengthening the Non-Proliferation Treaty, (NPT) Mr. Palme admitted that there was a difference of opinion between the Indian and the Commission's views. He had told the major nuclear weapon States many times that by continuing with vertical proliferation they were violating Article 6 of the treaty. But this did not mean that NPT was a scrap of paper--instead he urged all nations to sign it.

UN's role: The Commission made some specific recommendations to enhance the UN's peace-keeping role. They included a more comprehensive and regular procedure in the Security Council to monitor the international security situation: stronger and more practical support including financial, for UN peace-keeping operations and early handling of disputes and potential conflicts.

Mr. Palme said although the UN in the 40 years of its existence had had as many successes as setbacks, it was the only "universal instrument of peace and international cooperation." The UN should strengthen and develop peace-keeping techniques which have potential applications in fields other than the purely political, namely international terrorism and natural disasters.

Regional security: The other major focus of the Delhi discussions, Mr. Palme said, was regional security. The Commission felt that the countries

that enter into regional security arrangements should make greater use of UN peace-keeping mechanisms to stabilise volatile situations which threaten to deteriorate into armed conflict.

The Commission welcomed the encouraging initial proposals to reduce potential conflicts between the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member nations. It said the Contadora peace process in Latin America and the actions of Asian enhance the prospects of common security.

Mandatory sanctions: One area which the Commission felt required "urgent and intensified international effort" was on South Africa. Nothing short of mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria regime could help weaken apartheid, Mr. Palme said.

In this context, the Commission welcomed the regional cooperation among the countries of South Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) and said it helped the economies of frontline States survive the continual aggression of the South African armed forces. It appealed to the international community to give it much more support.

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CSO: 5150/0064

INDIA

VICE PRESIDENT CALLS FOR REDUCTION IN NUCLEAR ARMS

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 7 Jan 86 p 4

[Excerpts] New Delhi, 6 Jan (PTI)--The vice-president, Mr R. Venkataraman, today called for a moratorium on stockpiling of nuclear arms and militarisation of outer space.

Inaugurating the eighth Commonwealth Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers here, Mr Venkataraman stressed the need for strengthening the Commonwealth in order to promote world peace and the parliamentary system of government.

Welcoming delegates from 26 Commonwealth countries and members of the Indian Parliament and ministers who attended the inaugural session at the Central Hall of Parliament House here, Mr Venkataraman emphasised the need for the Commonwealth to remain together in achieving the ideal of world unity and co-operation.

Pointing out that the Commonwealth presented the third largest group of nations in the world after the United Nations and the nonaligned movement, Mr Venkataraman said, "It is not easy to establish peace and harmony today in a world that is riven with conflicts and strife. And yet, the endeavour must go on ceaselessly for the peace and progress of humanity," he added.

In his speech, Mr Venkataraman emphasised the need for a determined endeavour to bridge the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries in providing basic necessities of life to the people, but expressed his unhappiness that the creations of science and technology were "posing a danger to life on our planet."

He said: "More than 50,000 nuclear warheads, capable of destroying mankind from the face of earth several times over, are stockpiled in the arsenals of the nuclear weapon states. The development of new weapon systems is bound to lead to a further escalation of the nuclear arms race and enhance the danger of the outbreak of a nuclear war."

Stating that the global military expenditure has emerged as a major factor responsible for the structural malfunctioning of the world economy, Mr Venkataraman said, "We have, therefore, to urge upon the nuclear weapon states

to make every effort to reach an agreement on substantial reductions in their stockpiles of nuclear warheads."

Indian Electorate 'Mature'

"No person or party can take the Indian electorate for granted nor predict their behaviour," Mr Venkataraman said, adding that election results have "demonstrated unmistakably their (electorate's) ability to choose a government for themselves."

The elections have also proved the people's "maturity to call parties and governments to account at the time of each general election," he added. "This is a sign of maturity and wisdom," he said.

Mr Venkataraman told the conference that adult franchise has created amongst the people of India a renewed awareness of their right to shape their destiny. He said he was also proud that the country had retained and successfully worked the party system of elections and government.

He told them that India has not only the largest democracy, but also "one of the healthiest and most vibrant democracies in the world." Mr Venkataraman said Parliament was a growing and constantly evolving institution. As the ministers are responsible to Parliament, it is necessary that Parliament and its members remain responsible to the people. "And this accountability is continuous, concurrent and not merely periodical," he added.

In his 22-page address, Mr Venkataraman pointed out that another regrettable feature of our time was the practice by some states of racial discrimination, depriving human beings of their legitimate political and social rights.

'Colonial Era Over'

The sovereign states of Australia and Zimbabwe represented the "A to Z" of the process of dismantling of the British Empire over which the sun was not supposed to set, Mr Venkataraman said.

But this was now part of history, and today "nations widely different in history, culture and tradition, in size and economic status, stand knitted together as a brotherhood born out of our colonial past. Within the Commonwealth, there are a great many features in our political systems which make every one of our countries unique."

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CSO: 5150/0063

INDIA

SOVIET STAND ON INDO-PAKISTAN NUCLEAR ARGUMENT SCORED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Dec 85 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

Guess where the following quotation comes from: "Instead of getting dragged into a nuclear arms race against Pakistan (sic), India should stand firmly by its policy of opposing all nuclear arms proliferation both horizontally and vertically. Any attempt by India to produce nuclear weapons will not act as a deterrent to Pakistan or bring additional security to India. It will only aggravate tension and create apprehension in the minds (sic) of neighbouring countries." No one can blame you if your first guess is that it comes from some U.S. text, official or non-official. Also, no one can blame you if your second guess is that the quotation comes from some article or statement by some peace group in India or elsewhere. But both guesses are wrong. The quotation is contained in the CPI's draft political resolution which is to be endorsed at the forthcoming party congress next March.

The resolution is naive in the extreme. It ignores the reality of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme and the challenge that must pose to India; it is truly extraordinary for anyone to believe that India's opposition to nuclear proliferation, however strongly reaffirmed, will dissuade Islamabad from going ahead with its plans; and one must live on another planet to think that nuclear weapons do not act as a deterrent to those who are, or might soon be, in possession of them. These may not give India an offensive advantage in that New Delhi cannot possibly think of attacking Pakistan on the strength of its nuclear arsenal if it acquires one. But surely they must deter Pakistan. And when did the CPI start bothering about the reaction of neighbouring countries which it till quite recently believed were open to "U.S. imperialist" manipulation and control?

We would not make the mistake of treating the CPI as a Soviet megaphone. It is not our case that the party leadership has acted on a cue from Moscow. For all we know, it is a mere coincidence that the CPI takes the same position on the issue of non-proliferation, including a possible Indian response in kind to a Pakistani bomb, as the Soviet Union. Even so, it is an interesting coincidence or convergence, and it detracts strongly from the "nationalist"

position the CPI has tended to take on issues such as investment in India by multinationals, the Indian effort to get sophisticated technology from the United States and so on.

The CPI leadership cannot be wholly insensitive to the Indian need to be seen to be stronger than Pakistan in the military field in the interest of peace in South Asia; nor can it be oblivious to the fact that this would not be possible once Islamabad comes to possess the bomb and New Delhi does not. This must be even more true of Soviet policy makers. After all, their country has lived in great fear when its arch rival, the United States, possessed the bomb and it did not. Stalin was perhaps a mad man who ignored the apprehensions that a Soviet nuclear arsenal would provoke in western Europe. But to the best of our knowledge, all subsequent Soviet leaders have been keen to ensure that their country did not lag behind the United States in this regard. Unless we are sadly mistaken, Mr. Gorbachov too is worried over President Reagan's "star wars" programme precisely for the same reason.

The logic behind the Soviet opposition to an Indian response in kind to a Pakistani bomb is rather strange. Moscow is not a co-guarantor of the existing world order with Washington. The United States can concede it such a role only if it openly agrees to respect the *status quo* and to accept a second place in the power hierarchy. It is sheer arrogance on the part of Soviet leaders to argue that their position vis-a-vis the United States is quantitatively different from any other country's vis-a-vis any other. They have used this kind of argument in respect of their efforts to secure access to western technology and they are doing so on the nuclear issue. And it has perhaps not even occurred to them that Indo-Soviet friendship has been contingent on a certain Indian perception of Pakistan and that in the event of an Indo-Pakistan *rapprochement*, Indo-Soviet ties could shrink. But Soviet naivety would be understandable on the assumption that they are as ignorant as they are self-righteous. The same explanation cannot be offered in respect of CPI leaders. They baffle us as they must baffle others, including the CPM leaders who have adopted a more cautious approach on the nuclear issue. They have said that they would not close the country's option.

/9274

CSO: 5150/0061

INDIA

URANIUM CORPORATION REPORTS RECORD PRODUCTION IN 1985

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 26 Dec 85 p 4

[Text]

New Delhi, Dec 25: The Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, has achieved an all time record production of uranium concentrates during 1984-85. The capacity utilisation of the mine was 88.96 per cent this year as against 84.57 per cent last year.

Similarly, the capacity utilisation of the mill with regard to the processed ore was also higher during 1984-85 at 97.86 per cent as against 92.77 per cent last year. The overall recovery of the ore was also higher, an official announcement said here today.

While the production of uranium mineral concentrates at the Rakha uranium recovery plant was above the target, the production at Surda and Mosaboni plants was marginally less than the target because of erratic power supply.

In respect of by-products, the production of molybdenum concentrate exceeded the target by nearly 17 per cent. The production of copper concentrate and magnetite also exceeded target.

The corporation achieved its highest ever income at Rs 14.87

crores.

Various programmes have been taken up for increasing the production of uranium. Some of the ongoing projects are: setting up of a uranium recovery plant adjacent to the copper concentrator of Hindustan Copper Limited at Mosaboni, construction of a mine at Bhadrin, and expansion of the mill at Jaduguda at a cost of Rs 3.29 crores.

Project reports for the Narwapahar and Turamdih projects involving an expenditure of over Rs 213.20 crores have been submitted to the government for approval. The project report for sinking an underground shaft required for mining ore located at depths of 555 metres and below has also been submitted for the government's approval.

To meet the increased uranium requirement for the country's nuclear power programme, the major thrust is on improvement of uranium recovery from copper tailings. Tests being conducted in collaboration with the ore dressing section of BARC are likely to be completed very soon. Based on the results of these tests, modifications will be made at all the three plants, at Surda, Rakha, and Mosaboni.

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CSO: 5150/0060

INDIA

IMPORTANCE, PLANS OF ORISSA SANDS COMPLEX NOTED

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 27 Dec 85 p 6

[Text]

Chhatrapur (Orissa), Dec. 26 (PTI): The Orissa Sands Complex (OSCM) of Indian Rare Earths Limited near here, is expected to play a significant role in achieving the country's targetted 10,000 MW of nuclear power generation by the turn of the century with the stage set for launching of its Rs 20-crore second phase.

The foreshore mineral deposits in beach sands in Orissa contains adequate concentration of thorium which can provide strategic nuclear fuel for the fast breeder reactors, according to the scientists of Indian Rare Earths (IRE) here.

With the completion of the second phase, the project would concentrate on production of rare earth compounds like thorium nitrate from the mineral, monazite, being the catalyst for production of nuclear fuel.

The Rs 100-crore first phase of the complex was completed earlier.

The second phase comprises a rare earth chemical plant, electro-smelting plant and ancillary industries like sponge iron plant, silica and refractory plant and caustic plant.

The IRE has also set up a research and development centre for advanced research in nuclear fuel technology in collaboration with the atomic energy commission which will coordinate the works of a scientists' pool created for this purpose.

For the first time in the world, the fast breeder test reactor developed by Indian scientists,

directly put on practical application from theoretical analysis in the absence of empirical studies, the scientists said.

Oxide of uranium and plutonium, containing 15 to 30 per cent plutonium, is generally used as fuel in the fast breeder reactors. But for the first time for the fast breeder, mixed carbide and nitrates were used by Indian scientists because of its higher thermal conductivity and density, scientists said.

The success of the experiment has led them to believe that the development of U-233 fuel thorium cycle, is not faraway, they added.

The OSCM is designed to produce 2,20,000 tonnes of ilmenite, 30,000 tonnes of sellenite, 10,000 tonnes of rutile and about 4,000 tonnes of monazite.

It will mine about three million tonnes of raw sand per annum. The entire output of ilmenite will be utilised to produce synthetic rutile, a semi-finished product having global demand.

The first consignment of synthetic rutile worth Rs 25 lakhs has been exported to Japan few months ago.

Keeping in view the vast export potential of this material the Orissa government has constructed a minor port at Gopalpur with an investment of Rs 20 crores. The port is expected to operate before October next year. Meanwhile, an eight-kilometre-long railway siding has also been completed, linking OSCM with Chhatrapur.

/9274

CSO: 5150/0059

6 March 1986

INDIA

INDIA RARE EARTHS BURIES URANIUM, ENDANGERS NEIGHBORS

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 20 Jan 86 p 5

[Text]

New Delhi, Jan. 19: Six hundred tonnes of radioactive uranium and mesothorium lie buried in the Alleppey premises of Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) at a great risk to the human and animal population in the vicinity, according to a study conducted by the Kerala-based forum for occupational health and environmental studies (FOES).

The wastes, which will remain lethal for centuries, are buried close to the banks of the Periyar river and threaten to enter the local food chain. Another 5,000 tonnes of thorium powder are stored in a broken silo two metres from the river bank, threatening the water system of the entire Ernakulam district.

The FOES team consisted of experts from the Medical College, Calicut, Government Law College, Ernakulam, and the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The study was coordinated by Mr V.T. Padmanabhan, a well known environmentalist, and the findings were released earlier this month by Justice V.K. Krishna Iyer.

IREL functions under the department of atomic energy (DAE). The study challenges the claims of the atomic energy commission that India's nuclear programme is safe, pointing out that while the nuclear programme has reached a take-off stage with breeder reactors going critical, the plant which produces the vital fuel, thorium, has primitive safety apparatuses.

The study found widespread incidence of cancer and sterility among workers at the plant as well as genetic disorders among their offspring. Heart diseases and premature ageing were other occupational hazards. It said the cause-effect relationship between radiation and these diseases had been established by an epidemiological study in which the health condition of exposed workers was compared with that of an unexposed workers' group.

According to the study, the cancer risk among IREL workers is 4.62 times higher than that of workers in an adjoining factory and 6.98 times higher than the all India average of workers insured under the Employees' State Insurance scheme. Similar rates were found for other diseases. As an instance of genetic disorders, the study cited the case of Karunakaran, a mechanic, all of whose four children are severely retarded mentally.

The study reported that compensation had been denied in many deserving cases. It claimed to be the first study of its kind in the world for the atomic energy industry and observed that IREL, being the only DAE unit which has completed 30 years of operation, lent itself to such a comprehensive study in which hazards and risks could be quantified.

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6 March 1986

INDIA

BRIEFS

BJP NUCLEAR POLICY--Chandigarh, Jan. 6--India does not have a nuclear bomb, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, president of the BJP, told a Press conference here today before returning to Delhi after a three day visit to this city. But he said the nation should be taken into confidence about the Pakistani nuclear threat. "What is our response", he asked. He added "India does not have the bomb. It should make one. It will have to announce it". [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jan 86 p 9] /9274

FAST BREEDER TECHNOLOGY--Fast-breeder reactors were cited as the 'most likely candidates' to meet future requirement for power production in the country by eminent scientist, Dr Homi N Sethna, at a function in the Capital on Wednesday. The 63-year-old scientists, who received the Dadabhai Naoroji Memorial Prize for 1984 from Vice-President R. Venkataraman at the India International Centre said in course of a lecture on 'Energy For the Future' that with fossile fuel sources fast depleting, it was 'imperative' to find reliable substitutes for power production in the near future. Breeder reactors were attractive, Dr Sethna said, because they produce more fuel than they burn. Fast-breeder technology using thorium as the fertile material was of particular relevance to India because the country's thorium resources were some 360,000 tonnes, six times our uranium reserves, he noted. The fuel life thus could be stretched six times by deploying thorium in Indian fast breeders, he pointed out. Dr Sethna, who is the first scientist to receive the prestigious award consisting of Rs 10,000 and a citation, said that fast breeder technology was the potential answer to the long-term energy needs of the country. The eminent scientist, who had already been honoured with the Padma Sri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan, receives the Dadabhai Naoroji Award for his contribution to the design and construction of the nuclear power plant at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Jan 86 p 3] /9274

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PAKISTAN

HOPE FOR RECONCILIATION WITH FRANCE EXPRESSED

GF091552 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Feb 86 p 4

[Editorial: "French Nuclear Duplicity"]

[Text] The arrival in Islamabad of the French Foreign Ministry's secretary general will provide an opportunity for officials of Pakistan and France to attempt to resolve the festering bitter dispute between the two countries on the reprocessing plant. This issue, which enjoys a national consensus in Pakistan among all sections of opinion, became acrimonious as a consequence of the French Government's decision in the summer of 1978 to unilaterally succumb to American pressure and cancel an agreement, in breach of commitments given by Paris to Islamabad. Pakistan engaged a French company in October, 1974, which was followed in March, 1976 by a bilateral cooperation agreement between the two governments. A comprehensive safeguards agreement was also concluded between the International Atomic Energy Agency and Pakistan.

France, which consistently claims to uphold a policy of independence from U.S. control in the Gaullist tradition and seeks to help Third World countries, went back on its word in the case of reprocessing plant. Apart from the fact that it was a breach of contract and adversely affected French credibility and commitment in the eyes of Pakistani opinion, another additional aspect was the French decision to readily replace U.S.A. as a supplier of enriched uranium for India's Tarapur reactor. Regrettably, this again was undertaken as a result of American pressure. If the French were sceptical about Pakistan's nuclear programme, it is strange that such scepticism and suspicions were not extended to the Indian programme which is publicly developing a nuclear capability.

We would hope that with the forthcoming visit of the French mission this issue will be resolved in a way that conforms to the principles of justice and legality in inter-state relations. The reprocessing plant issue is a test case in Pakistan-France relations and it is still a festering sore within our national body politic. Hopefully, the French will endeavour to expedite its resolution so that our broader relationship can incorporate mutually beneficial cooperation in various other spheres as well.

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PAKISTAN

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES PINSTECH ANNIVERSARY

BK101611 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Jinnah has reiterated that Pakistan's nuclear program is totally peaceful and its only aim is the people's social and economic prosperity. He was addressing a function held to mark the 20th anniversary of Pakistan's Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology [PINSTECH] in Islamabad today. Mr Mohammad Khan Jinnah said that the country is being administered democratically by an elected government that is accountable to the people. Basically, this government is responsible for the country's progress and prosperity and improving the general quality of life. These are our only aims and that is why it is essential that we work to achieve these policies and programs under all circumstances. He added that a self-reliant economy is our objective and without achieving success in the field of science and technology this objective would be impossible to accomplish. We can achieve this objective through nuclear technology. That is why the biggest responsibility lies with scientists, technical experts, and engineers who should fully participate in this great effort to accelerate progress in the country.

The prime minister reiterated Pakistan's stand against the use of nuclear energy for any purpose other than peaceful and said the world will continue to be unsafe until nuclear weapons are eliminated. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it has decided that it will use nuclear energy only for constructive purposes. That is why our nuclear program is totally peaceful. He expressed happiness that Pakistan's position is now being better understood.

He described the recent India-Pakistan agreement on not attacking each other's nuclear installation as a constructive effort

which aims at utilizing their resources and facilities for accelerating social and economic progress in both countries. He said that Pakistan's proposal to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone had been overwhelmingly welcomed at the United Nations. The prime minister referred to the work being done on uranium in Pakistan, but emphasized that its aim is not to make a bomb but to provide fuel for the Pakistani nuclear power station. He added that all nations should know that Pakistan cannot be deprived from obtaining any type of technology needed to meet its energy needs, and for agricultural and industrial progress.

The prime minister declared a bonus equivalent to a month's salary for all employees of PINSTECH. Earlier, the chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Mr Munir Ahmad Khan, described the institute's role in the field of nuclear research and said that this institute is the best of its type not only in Pakistan but in the entire Islamic world and is one of the best of its type in the Third World. Throwing light on the institute's future research projects, the chairman said the institute is working on breeder reactors, thermal-nuclear fusion for nearly unrestricted energy supply, and laser technology. The institute's chairman also referred to the establishment of PINSTECH and its successes in the field of science and technology.

The function was attended by federal ministers, ministers of state, senators, members of the National Assembly and prominent scientists. The prime minister distributed awards and certificates and inspected various departments of the institute. The director and chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission presented an insignia to the prime minister.

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USSR

USSR'S PETROSYANTS ASSESSES NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE

PM221502 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 42, Oct 85 pp 18-20

[Article by Andrey Petrosyants, chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Utilization of Atomic Energy: "Non-Proliferation -- A Path Towards Disarmament"]

[Text] The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons went into force in March 1970. Today some 130 states, i.e., the overwhelming majority, have signed it. The signatories have met several times to discuss its operation. In 1975 the representatives of 58 countries met in Geneva for the purpose. In 1980 the Second NPT Review Conference was held. Three main groups of states took shape at this conference - the Western countries led by the U.S.A., the non-aligned nations headed by Mexico, Yugoslavia and Sri Lanka, and the socialist states led by the U.S.S.R. Attended by 75 countries, it was held in a climate of sharp contradictions and direct confrontation between separate groups of participating countries. Although many of the signatories to the treaty proposed to make it more effective, to increase the number of participants, the political situation at that time made it impossible to adopt a comprehensive final statement. The non-aligned and neutral countries qualified some clauses of the treaty as "discriminatory" and "unfair." Nevertheless on the whole, the Second NPT Review Conference played a useful and constructive role. It set the date for the convocation of the Third Conference - 1985.

The importance the world community attaches to nuclear non-proliferation is evidenced by the fact that the Third NPT Review Conference received numerous messages of greeting, e.g., from Javier Perez de Cuellar, U.N. Secretary-General, and Mikhail Gorbachov. "We are for energetic efforts to curb the arms race being made all along the line," the CPSU General Secretary wrote. "And, of course, an important role here will be played as before by measures designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons."

At the present forum, as at the previous one, the positions of the three leading groups of countries crystallized at once. The group of non-aligned, developing and neutral countries was numerically the biggest. The second group was made up of Western states led by the U.S.A. and the third, of the socialist countries. In the period since 1980 and during the first few days after the Third NPT Review Conference opened, another 17 states signed the treaty. Thus, the overwhelming majority of the U.N. member countries are now signatory to it.

The 15 years that have passed since the treaty was concluded have shown its viability and effectiveness. Since it came into force not a single state has acquired the nuclear weapon. However, there are also some disquieting facts. For instance, the number of so-called "near-nuclear" states has increased. Among these are Israel, South Africa and Pakistan which actually make no secret of their nuclear ambitions. The press has frequently carried reports of certain Western countries, the U.S.A. in particular, having actually helped meet the desire of these countries to acquire the atomic weapons.

What was the U.S. stand at the recent forum?

Let me say outright that the position of the U.S. delegation was dubious. They came without any concrete proposals as regards fulfillment of the recommendations arising from Article VI of the treaty which reads: "Each of the parties to the treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control."

The U.S. delegation brought no concrete proposals nor has it done anything positive in the past five years to make non-proliferation more effective. On the contrary, without giving any reasons, Washington broke off the trilateral talks (between the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A. and Great Britain) on the drafting of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests and did not support any of the Soviet Union's numerous peaceful proposals.

Senator Carl Levin (Democrat) who attended the Conference in the capacity of an observer from the Senate Armed Services Committee, also confirmed that the U.S. delegation was compelled to adopt a "defensive" position.

As to the prohibition of nuclear weapon tests, the U.S. reaction on this question was to all intents and purposes negative. Yet reinforcement of the non-proliferation regime -- both "vertical" and "horizontal" -- largely depends on such a ban.

Kenneth L. Adelman, director of U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, who headed the U.S. delegation, avoided posing controversial questions, nor did he engage in confrontation or polemics. True, he did touch upon the question of the prohibition of nuclear weapons tests. But in what key?

"For our part, we remain committed to a complete ban on nuclear testing as a long-term goal," he said. "But we do not agree it should be the next step in our efforts to reduce the nuclear threat. A nuclear test ban would not reduce the number of nuclear weapons. And our most urgent task must be deep reductions of those existing nuclear arsenals."

What does Kenneth Adelman mean by "long-term goal"? One to be achieved in five, ten, fifteen or, perhaps, even more years from now? The U.S. delegation did not submit any definite proposals on a considerable reduction

of the existing nuclear stockpiles either. How big should this reduction be? How soon should it be effected? What should be the procedure for its implementation? As the reader can see, the speech of the U.S. delegate contained nothing but some fine words. There was no suggestion of progress. Why would a ban on nuclear weapon tests not help reduce the nuclear weapon stockpiles? Why did the U.S. delegation ignore such an important factor as halting of work on modernization and improvement of existing nuclear weapons, and development of new types of such weapons? Without tests it is impossible to develop a reliable weapon.

It is noteworthy that not all the Western countries supported the U.S. stand. Far from it. For instance, William Hayden, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, said: "We hold that a comprehensive test ban treaty is urgently required.... What is required, and required urgently, is a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty and the necessary global means of verification of compliance with the treaty."

Lennart Bodstrom, the Swedish Foreign Minister, said:

"The Swedish government has welcomed the moratorium on all nuclear testing announced by the Soviet Union. We strongly hope that the moratorium will be prolonged beyond 1 January 1986, and that the United States together with other nuclear weapon states will join the moratorium."

I would like to quote another statement here. Ahead 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid the Egyptian Foreign Minister, said:

"One possible way forward is a moratorium on testing until the conclusion of a CTBT. In this respect, we welcome the Soviet Union's decision to free nuclear tests from August 6 to January 1, 1986. The Soviet Union also expressed readiness to extend such a freeze if reciprocated by the U.S.A., which is what we all hope will happen."

When the U.S.S.R. announced its moratorium on nuclear explosions, many Western countries renewed their discussions on problems of control. (It is in place to note that Washington has been deliberately harping on this problem at other talks too, including those on various aspects of disarmament.) In particular, it is averred that it would be impossible to verify the fulfillment of commitments assumed, that effective methods of control would be required and that these have yet to be developed. These questions are not new, they have been raised at this Geneva conference as well. Some speakers again mentioned the need to establish control when banning nuclear explosions. However, it would first be necessary to determine the essence, the content, the technical and political instruments of control. Only then would it be possible to proceed with the termination of all nuclear charge tests. Here, for instance, is what the Netherlands representative said:

"We stress that a...moratorium which is not accompanied by adequate and effective verification measures could not be a substitute for a treaty."

Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, remarked that a moratorium on nuclear testing of the kind recently proposed by the Soviet Union "would be neither verifiable nor legally binding." Several more similar statements could be cited. However, all this talk about control is solely intended to avoid ending these tests, to justify their continuation and the building up of nuclear arsenals.

However, it is gratifying to note that the majority of the delegations supported the moratorium and urged the other nuclear powers that signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty to do the same.

The opponents of the moratorium attempted to accuse the U.S.S.R. of being opposed to all forms of control.

This is not so. In our report on the very first day of the conference we said that the signatories should display initiative and effort in resolving, as quickly as possible, all the technical and political differences involved in the signing of a test ban treaty, with strict and effective international control.

In the First Main Committee, which discussed the fulfillment, or rather the non-fulfillment, of Article VI of the treaty, the Soviet delegation stated that the U.S.S.R. always held that the relevant international agreement should specify adequate means of control. Incidentally, during the trilateral talks the U.S.A., Great Britain and the U.S.S.R. held on the prohibition of nuclear weapon tests (at which I had the honor to lead the Soviet delegation) agreement was reached on special control measures on the ending of such tests. Practically all the fundamental issues were resolved and recorded in a technical protocol to the draft treaty on complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests. It was only because the U.S.A. adopted a negative stand at these crucial talks and walked out, slamming the door, that the treaty was not prepared for endorsement.

The U.S.S.R. agrees with many participants in the conference that control is not a problem from the technical angle. There is a political problem -- the unwillingness of certain states to end nuclear weapon tests. Far from being opposed to control, the Soviet Union stands for control over nuclear charge tests. But on condition that a political decision on the cessation of nuclear weapon tests is taken, that, as soon as such tests cease, an international control system be set up, that the scope of international control, the necessary apparatus and other technical facilities are determined. Why should this be done? To make sure that tests in all spheres, including underground tests, are ended.

The Soviet Union holds that nuclear disarmament, strategic arms limitation, complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests, cessation of nuclear arms manufacture, and gradual reduction and ultimate destruction of accumulated stockpiles are an inalienable part of the non-proliferation policy. This idea is the cornerstone of the treaty on non-proliferation.

As a nuclear power the U.S.S.R. faithfully lives up to its commitments under the treaty. It favors the further enhancement of the role of the IAEA in ruling out the proliferation of nuclear arms. As Mikhail Gorbachev also pointed out in his message of greeting, "the Soviet Union is doing and will continue to do its utmost not only to stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons, but also to end the nuclear arms race and to reverse it."

In 1982 the U.S.S.R. pledged not to be the first to use the nuclear weapon. At the same time it submitted to the 37th U.N. General Assembly Session a proposal on the immediate cessation and prohibition of nuclear weapon tests. It is a fact that the U.S.S.R. has repeatedly proposed various measures to this end. The Soviet Union's unilateral decision to discontinue nuclear explosions as of August 6, 1985, was another practical step towards ending the dangerous competition in the buildup of nuclear arsenals.

In a working document the non-aligned and neutral countries jointly submitted to the conference, they emphasized the need to begin immediately talks on the conclusion of a treaty on general and complete prohibition of nuclear weapon tests. It was also proposed that all nuclear powers should forthwith announce a moratorium on all nuclear device tests, the freezing of nuclear arsenals, a ban on the use of nuclear weapons, and nuclear disarmament. Despite the stiff opposition of the U.S.A. and some of the other Western countries, the conference managed to find solutions and formulas acceptable to all the participants.

The Final Declaration it adopted states that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons plays a major role in the maintenance of international peace and security. It voices the resolve of the signatories further to enhance the prestige of the treaty. The declaration points out that the spread of nuclear weapons would increase the danger of nuclear war. The purpose of the treaty -- to prevent the emergence of new nuclear states -- is being achieved.

The document takes note of the important role being played by the IAEA control system. It expresses complete satisfaction with the fact that the Soviet Union and other nuclear powers have placed under IAEA control a part of their atom-for-peace effort. The declaration has called on the People's Republic of China to act along similar lines.

It further points out that the treaty helps promote international relations and mentions the significance of the Soviet moratorium on the testing of all types of nuclear devices. The document calls for the resumption in 1985 of the trilateral negotiations on the complete cessation of nuclear weapon tests. It underscores that most countries of the world have endorsed the Non-Proliferation Treaty and declares that the next, Fourth NPT Review Conference is to be held in 1990.

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